

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Tajikistan
Program Title:	Democratic Culture and Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	119-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,364,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$315,000 ESF; \$62,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$4,800,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: In Tajikistan, USAID's democracy program promotes stronger and more sustainable civic organizations, increases the availability of information, enhances citizen participation opportunities, and helps public institutions become more effective, responsive, and accountable.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Accountable Public Institutions (\$1,484,072 FSA). USAID's local government program will assist a Presidential Working Group develop a decentralization strategy by finalizing draft laws on Local State Powers and Self-Management Bodies in Settlements and Villages. USAID will develop municipal management training modules and provide social partnership grants. Equipping law students to advocate for clients' rights, fairly prosecute criminals, or properly adjudicate cases will be the focus of USAID's legal efforts. USAID will issue an RFA for legal education reform and continue efforts to create an independent judiciary. Principal contractors/grantees: Associates in Rural Development, Inc./Checchi (prime), the Urban Institute (prime), and others to be determined.

Civic Organizations (\$1,228,919 FSA). USAID will continue to support a national resource center network that will conduct trainings and provide legal consultations to NGOs. Additionally, the network will distribute advocacy grants to local communities. Institutional grants also will be given to NGOs in certain sectors to strengthen their institutional capacity and assist them in becoming leading NGOs in their respective sectors (gender, youth, environment, and civic rights). Advocacy work will continue to focus on a better legal environment for NGOs. Principal contractors/grantees: International Research and Exchange Board (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), and Partners for Democratic Change (sub).

Citizen Participation (\$788,426 FSA). USAID will issue RFAs for its political party and civic advocacy activities. These programs will promote the development of political parties and activate civic advocacy organizations in conjunction with upcoming elections in 2005 and 2006. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Media and Information (\$1,862,583 FSA, \$62,363 FSA carryover). USAID is seeking implementers for its media program, a main feature of which is the development of an independent television station network to promote sharing of information and services. USAID will provide the network with training and technical assistance and perhaps transmitters to broaden outreach. Since informing the public about the risks and dangers associated with human trafficking is the cornerstone of USAID's trafficking strategy in Tajikistan, public service announcements, brochures, talk shows, radio call-in programs, and a mobile theater will be used to alert citizens to the grave consequences of the issue. USAID will continue to pilot its civic education textbook in Russian and Tajik and develop a second edition. Principal contractors/grantees: International Organization for Migration (prime), the International Foundation for Election Systems (prime), and others to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Accountable Public Institutions (\$1,124,474 FSA). Legal education will continue to be the primary focus of USAID's legal reform efforts through support for clinical education, extra-curricular activities to improve students' advocacy and leadership skills, ethics training, and curriculum reform. USAID's judicial reform program will train judges on international and domestic laws, promote the importance of judicial ethics, and increase judges' access to information. USAID's local government initiative will present new training modules related to citizen involvement, the role of local councils, local governance basics, and capital investment planning. Principal contractors/grantees: Urban Institute and others to be determined.

Civic Organizations (\$1,207,167 FSA). USAID will continue its support to the Network of Civil Society Support Centers (CSSCs) by providing a full-range of services to indigenous civil society organizations. By 2005, USAID will decide whether to shift from supporting the U.S.-based implementing partner or directly supporting the local CSSCs' association. Training will focus on institutional capacity-building and financial management. USAID will provide training and services to indigenous NGOs so that these organizations can serve as advocates for reforms. USAID will provide institutional grant funds to NGOs working with youth, civic rights, and environmental issues. A cadre of local professional lawyers will continue to provide legal services to NGOs. Principal contractors/grantees: IREX (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), and Partners for Democratic Change (sub).

Citizen Participation (\$649,198 FSA). Political party work will prepare registered parties for elections and facilitate public forums for party representatives to articulate their positions. Civic advocacy work will attempt to energize citizens to advocate for their personal and collective interests. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Media and Information (\$1,819,161 FSA). USAID will increase its focus on independent radio stations and newspapers, since these outlets reach a large portion of the population and have not received much donor support. USAID will continue its support to the independent television network. Through television, radio, newspapers, roundtables, trainings, and conferences, USAID will continue educating the Tajik public about human trafficking. USAID's civic education efforts will focus on helping the Ministry of Education to include the course into the official curriculum. Principal contractors/grantees: International Foundation for Election Systems and others to be determined.

Performance and Results: The June referendum, which made over 30 amendments to the Constitution, was a litmus test for political motivation in the country. While debate took place between political parties months before the referendum, these discussions attracted little public interest and the flawed nature of the actual referendum met with little public outcry. The ability of the present government to push through the referendum without much opposition does not bode well for the development of a pluralist system or a transfer of power. The new constitution could allow the President to stay in power for another 16 years.

USAID's local government implementer is working with the newly-formed Presidential Working Group to draft local government legislation, which will replace the old Soviet-style centralized governance structure. USAID's civic education textbook is lauded by the Ministry of Education and strongly endorsed by the opposition. Moreover, students and teachers embraced the program wholeheartedly. On the media front, a new independent radio station went on the air in Dushanbe, four years after it first applied for a license.

While USAID experienced mixed results with its programs during FY 2003, there are opportunities for progress. USAID and its partners must seek out ways to energize citizens to advocate for democratic processes and institutions. By program's end, there will be stronger and more sustainable civic organizations; increased availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues; enhanced opportunities for citizen participation in governance; and more effective, responsive, and accountable public institutions.